



STATE SENATOR • LIZ BRATER • 18TH DISTRICT

# Brater Press Release

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## **GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL TO EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

(LANSING)—Legislation to extend unemployment insurance benefits for Michigan's unemployed workers, sponsored by Senator Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) and Representative Barbara Farrah (D-Southgate), was signed into law today by Governor Granholm. The law will distribute more than \$206 million in extended unemployment benefits to long-term unemployed workers.

"It is important to extend every protection possible to Michigan workers during these difficult economic times," said Sen. Brater. "There are nearly 53,000 jobless workers who may be eligible for continued unemployment benefits under this new law."

Under the new law, Michigan workers can obtain additional unemployment benefits through the federal-state Extended Unemployment Compensation-X (TEUC-X) program and the federal-state Extended Benefits (EB) program. TEUC-X provides eligible jobless workers with up to 13 additional weeks of federal benefits after they exhaust their first tier of TEUC benefits. The EB program provides up to 13 weeks of combined federal and state-funded benefits.

"I am proud to have played a role in getting this legislation passed in the Senate," said Brater. "This new law offers hope and security to unemployed workers during this time of economic uncertainty. The additional benefits will allow them to provide for themselves and their families as they seek new employment opportunities."

Senator Liz Brater represents Senate District 18, which includes the Cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, the Villages of Barton Hills, Chelsea, and Dexter and the following Townships: Ann Arbor, Augusta, Dexter, Freedom, Lima, Lyndon, Northfield, Salem, Scio, Sharon, Superior, Sylvan, Webster, and Ypsilanti. She is the minority vice chair of the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism Committee.

**Editor's Note: A photo from today's bill signing with Governor Granholm is available for download at the following link: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/lizbrater/press.htm>**